

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **DEMOCRATIC MEMBER REMARKS CONCERNING INVASIVE AND UNNECESSARY ABORTION ULTRASOUND BILL**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – All women seeking an abortion would be required to have an ultrasound in the first trimester of their pregnancy under a highly controversial measure that had been vetoed last year and is being resurrected by Republican lawmakers.

On Tuesday, the mandatory ultrasound bill, House Bill 1127, was approved by the House Health and Human Services Quality Subcommittee on a party-line vote, with Democrats in opposition.

The bill advances despite public opposition and last year's warnings by then-Republican Governor Charlie Crist whose veto message stated that personal views about abortion shouldn't be used to **"expand the role of government and coerce people to obtain medical tests or procedures that are not medically necessary."**

**In addition, the Republican mandatory ultrasound bill does not create jobs for Floridians.**

The following are some of the remarks by Democratic Caucus members from Tuesday's committee debate:

**Rep. Mark Pafford (D-West Palm Beach)** said: "Anybody who professes to be a Libertarian would be completely against something like this... This bill adds several obstacles, including financial obstacles. It doesn't take into consideration (the individualized circumstances) of women seeking an abortion. It's a fairly outrageous bill, and I will not support anything like this."

**Rep. Scott Randolph (D-Orlando)** said: "There are thousands and thousands of wanted pregnancies that are terminated every day because of fetal anomalies and

unviable fetuses. To force a couple to go in there...and go through a second procedure...regardless of whether it's an (abdominal) ultrasound or a transvaginal ultrasound...whether you think it's invasive or not, for anyone going through a trauma like this, it is invasive.

“I have heard many members of this Legislature complain about government coming between patients and a doctor, and yet we have a bill here that would mandate that government come between a patient and a doctor,” Randolph added. “This bill is going to add costs, add difficulty and emotional trauma to thousands and thousands of women each year who want a pregnancy.”

**Rep. Betty Reed (D-Tampa)** said: “I happen to be around when abortions were not always safe. I had a friend of mine pass away because of someone trying to give her an abortion. To have women going through what this bill will put them through to have an abortion, I just cannot support it. I am a mother of five children. So, personally, I don't believe in abortions. But I think women should have a right to do what they need to do with their bodies.

“And I say to you guys, if you are going to make sure that every woman has an ultrasound, and you think it's not invasive, well go in and have a colonoscopy and come back and say ‘Oh, that was nothing,’ and then we'll talk about this bill again.”

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